

FORM B - BUILDING

Assessor's number
57-94

USGS Quad
Boston N.

Area(s)

Form Number
1120



Town Lexington

Place (neighborhood or village)

Address 24 Shirley Street

Historic Name Walter & Mary Spellman House

Uses: Present Residential

Original Residential

Date of Construction c.1900 (by 1906)

Source Directories, List of Persons

Style/Form Queen Anne

Architect/Builder unknown

Exterior Material:

Foundation Rubble

Wall/Trim Wood Clapboards, Wood shingles

Roof Asphalt Shingle

Outbuildings/Secondary Structures

none

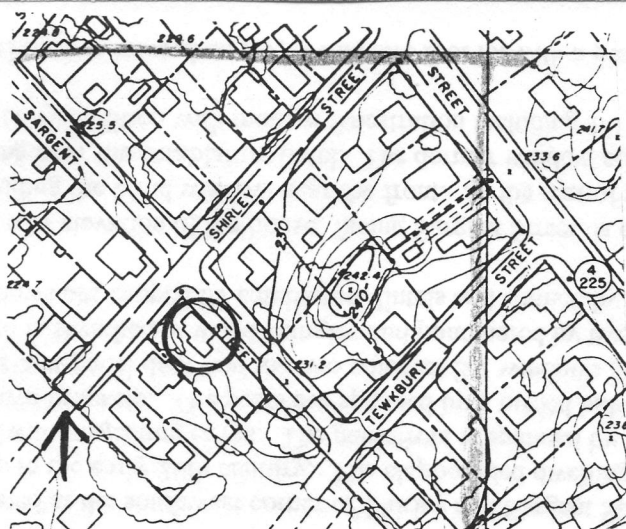
Major Alterations (with dates) date? - turned balustrade

Condition good

Moved ☒ no ☐ yes Date

Acreage 7424 SF

Setting mixed 20th century residential neighborhood
off Bedford Street



Recorded by Lisa Mausolf

Organization Lexington Historical Commission

Date (month/year) January 2000

BUILDING FORM (24 Shirley Street)

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION

Describe architectural features. Evaluate the characteristics of the building in terms of other buildings within the community.

Located at the southwest corner of Shirley and Sargent Street, 24 Shirley Street is a two-story, gablefront dwelling which dates to the early 20th century. The clapboarded dwelling rests on a rubble foundation and is capped by an asphalt-shingled roof with projecting eaves. The gablefront is spanned by a single-story, hipped roof porch supported by turned posts with jigsawed brackets. The posts are spanned by a turned balustrade of recent construction. The sidehall entrance contains a glass-and-panel door and the two adjacent 2/1 windows also sheltered by the porch. The upper level of the facade above the porch is sheathed in wood shingles and punctuated by two 2/1 windows. Unlike those on the first floor facade, these two windows are capped by entablature lintels and framed by louvered shutters.

The east elevation of the house, facing Sargent Street, is clapboarded and two bays deep with entablatured window openings including the blind window near the front. At the rear of the elevation there is a gable wall dormer with a decorative jigsawed raking over the entablature lintel. The dormer window contains a small 2/2 sash. Projecting from the west elevation is a 2 1/2-story addition with modern fenestration including 1/1 sash and casement units.

The house is located on a 7,424 square foot lot with a picket fence enclosing the small front yard.

HISTORICAL NARRATIVE

Describe the history of the building. Explain its associations with local (or state) history. Include uses of the building and the role(s) the owners/occupants played within the community.

The early history of this house is not known with certainty. It appears that the house is depicted on the 1906 map as one of four owned by George Tewksbury. The owner believes that the house was constructed c.1893 based in part on the discovery of new 1891 Indian head pennies in the foundation although this seems doubtful as the building occupies Lot 14 of George Tewksbury's subdivision which was not laid out until 1898.

Directories indicate that Spellman, a conductor, was living at 9 Shirley Street as early as 1913. By 1918 his address is listed as 6 Shirley Street, which it remained until 1934. The house was renumbered #24 Shirley Street about 1935. Later members of the family living in the house included Mary Spellman (until about 1975), her son James, and later Walter F. Spellman, Jr. and his wife, Laura. The Spellman family continued to own it until 1983.

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

Lexington Directories, various years.

Lexington, Town of. List of Persons, various years.

Lexington, Town of. Valuation Lists. Assessors' Office, Town Hall, Lexington, Massachusetts.
1906 Atlas.

Recommended for listing in the National Register of Historic Places. *If checked, you must attach a completed National Register Criteria Statement form.*